

Remarks

The Office Action has set forth a restriction requirement placing claims 1-9 and 17-20 in group I and claims 10-16 in group II. The Actions states that group I and group II are related as process of making and product made and are distinct because the product of group I can be made by another materially different process than group II. Namely, it is said that the securing device of group I may be made without dividing the metal shank as recited in group II such as by simply adding first and second support members onto a shank. Applicants respectfully generally traverse this restriction.

Applicants assert that there is no added administrative burden associated with examining both group I and group II claims since both refer to a securing device that has first and second support members, and since a search for prior art that discloses a securing device with first and second support members will be inclusive of the manner of making the securing device including creating the first and second support members, such as by dividing the metal shank or otherwise. Therefore, it is asserted that because there will not be an additional administrative burden, the restriction should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, it is believed that the genus claims are allowable such that examination of only one species is improper. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants elect to proceed with group I claims reading on species A (Fig. 3), which includes at least claims 1-4, 6-9, 17, 18, and 20, should the restriction be sustained.

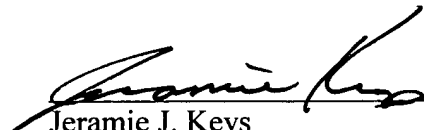
Conclusion

Applicants assert that this response fully addresses the restriction requirement. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the remarks above and further request that prosecution on the merits proceed. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned. No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093


Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724